

Thymelaeaceae
Wikstroemia indica
 Tie Bush/Bootlace Bush

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ETYMOLOGY

(wick-STRO-me-a) After Johan Wikstrom 1789-1856 Swedish Botanist; The species indica (IN-dee-cah) from India;

LIFEFORM

Shrub 1-2m x 1m spread

STATUS

Common; Recorded @ >900 locations (Moran, A 2009)

OCCURS

Five rocks headland, Yeppoon N Q, NSW, WA, Arnhem Land NT, Asia to Pacific

HABITAT

Coastal Dunes, Woodland LRf, DRf, near sea

LEAVES

Opposite, 2-6 cm x 25 mm, thin, soft hairless oblong elliptical, green above, numerous very translucent dots visible with lens on 1-2 mm stalks,

FLOWERS

Tubular, 8-10 mm, pale green, cream, yellow, with 1-4 flowers per heads terminal, few

Flowered; **Flowering Times** Feb, March, April, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov

FRUIT

Berries, 5-8 mm, ovoid, succulent, egg-shaped, fleshy bright red containing oblong single

seed; **Fruiting Times** Jan, Feb, Marc, April, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec

BARK

Greenish brown smooth strips readily from stems in long flexible lengths; reddish

STEM

Shrub with very fibrous stems; Branches finely minute hairy when young become smooth composed of strong fibrous & shiny with age;

ETHNOBOTANY

Ornamental potential usage in landscaping; Fruit & leaves toxic: contains glycosides of Dihydroxycoumarin; Fruit contain Nortrachelogenin 3325. Plant rarely eaten by stock; Fruit more toxic than leaves (White, C.T. 1934) Eaten by Swamp Wallabies; Bark used for bootlaces, also rope making & Japanese bank notes; Crushed leaves unpleasant odour; In Fiji the root bark has been applied externally to sores. Leaves and stems bark were given for coughs; Studies of chemicals in Wikstroemia have suggested it contains anti-cancer properties.

BIRD

Brown Cuckoo-dove, Mistletoe Bird, Regent Bowerbird, Lewin's Honeyeater (fr)

BUTTERFLY

Adult butterflies feed on flowers

INDIGENOUS USE

Used as fish poison;

ID FEATURE

New growth and flower parts often with sparse rusty hairs + Decussate coppery stems Leaves <4cm side veins distinct + Flowers creamy greenish yellow on <3 mm, stalks